The Cat Out of the Bag. HIGEE HOTEL, OLD POINT CUM-FORT, VIG., August 30, 1884.

DEAR MAR-Mean Par are havin a hi old time down here; mos' too h I am a thinkin'. I feel kinder sneekin about it, but I'm afrade par don't.

You know when we left Georgetown you told me to be a good boy an' take care of mi pore, deer old father. Well, I have bin a good, good boy, but mi pore, deer, old father ain't needin' any takin' care of, I notis. The way he is spludgin aroun' hear you'd most think he could take care of the hold place. He said las' nite that if I wrote to you about him, he'd larrup me good, and then took me in the candy shop next door and said to the girl who keeps the place that this was his little boy and to let him have what he wanted and to charge it to him. . I bot five cents worth of peenuts while he was in there, but went back and got \$2 worth of carymels and a few other nesecerys of life. But mi pore, deer old father can't give yer Uncle Fuller taffi like that, a thinkm' all the while I am agoin' to keep mum. Nixey!

It's too much cusin, that's wot's the matter with mi pore deer old father. He looks on the big book on the counter in the offis, and he sez, br jove, if here ain't luck, and I sez wot, par, and he sez why, here's your cusin, Sary Pendleton, and your cusin, Jule Vanmeter, from old Winchester, Ky., on your mother's side, and then he pulls out his morocy case and takes out a card, and sez to the dood behind the book, send that up to 449, and then he give me a quarter and told me to go in bathin'. But yer Uncle Fuller am't no goslin, and he jus hung aroun the parlor and kep his eye peeled. Par stood before the mirror and fixed his bangs, and smiled and craw-fished aroun like a regler dood. Perty soon about six girls come in, and, mar, they were dasys. Par kist the hole outfit twist and wanted to kiss 'em agane, but they wouldent have it. I gest they were taken kinder by cerprise or tha'd kicked before. It made me have freckles on the back to see him act so, and you athinkin' all the tim about his bein' so sic.

Ever since meetin' the cusins we have become relashuned to every one in the Higee-that is, all the females. Some how par don't seem to ketch to any men cusins. The dood clerk sez to par, you are a regular masher, and par sez come and take something, and they laffed and went inter the bilyard room, and when they come out par seen me and winked at the cloves in your lemonade at home, do

father in a bathin'. The niger that keeps the bathin' place sez pars close fit him quick. He and cusin Jule from the see. I don't know who Venis is, and what she was risin' from the see for, but if she looked anything like cusin Jule Vanmeter, on ver mother's side, after she got wet, God help Venis. But cusin Jule giggled and splashed water on par, and

Say, mar, who is Venis? I am goin to say it to my vellow-haired darlin' the next time we go in bathin.' Mar, my girl is a dasy, and don't

you forget it. She beets Lizzie Taylor all hotler, and her hare looks like the golden beems of the orb of day as they lovin'ly kiss the silvery waves. That's what par told Miss Hall, who is stoppin' here, about her

Say, mar, wouldent it be boss for you to come down here and give my poor, deer old father a cerprise party? Don't give me away.

No more at present. JOHNNY. P. S.-Please send me 2 dollars, and don't let on to par about sendin

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"Maria, don't throw that into the scrap bag." "Why, mum, it's only a scrap o'

cloth that's niver a bit o' good t' any

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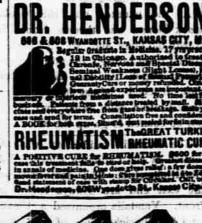
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